

KLONDIKE JUSTICE.

How a Deputy Marshal Conducted Court to Suit Himself.

At Circle City last spring a transportation company brought suit against one French to recover the amount alleged to be due for rent of a cabin. French had been the owner of a fine polar bear skin or robe, which friends of his say he sold to a Dawson man named Seates, and it had been stored in the cabin of Captain Story of the Columbia Navigation company for shipment by the steamer. One day when Captain Story was out a deputy United States marshal entered the cabin and took possession of the bearskin under a writ of attachment issued against French.

When the case came up for trial, the local justice, being also the transportation company's agent at Circle, turned the matter over to the deputy marshal, who on this occasion sat on the bench for the first time. This person's understanding of what was required of him in his new judiciary capacity and the unique



"HERE'S THE ROBE," SAID THE JUDGE. "NOW WHO OWNS IT?"

amount. I seized the robe for that claim. Judge Crane wants to act fair in the matter, so he is letting me decide this thing, as he is an interested party. Mr. Montfield, what do you know about this robe?"

Mr. Montfield, besides being clerk of court, was also the transportation company's bookkeeper at Circle. He was a careful man, and he seemed to suspect that some statements not strictly correct had already been made in the courtroom and evidently had his mind made up that he would not add to their number. So he said:

"I cannot recognize it to be the robe." "Did you ever see it before?" asked the court.

"I cannot say for sure," he replied. "I am supposed to be under oath, ain't I?" "Well, yes," responded this easy going judge. "You are supposed to be, but it is not necessary to swear you in a case like this. It'll be over in a minute."

"I cannot swear to that one," reaffirmed Mr. Montfield. "I can't say that I have ever seen it before."

"French tried to sell you a robe, didn't he?" inquired the court, taking a new tack. "Let us know all about it."

"Well," said Mr. Montfield, "I went to his cabin and saw a robe there. He asked me if I wanted to buy it. But I can't say that this is the robe."

"That robe," interrupted Captain Story excitedly, "belongs to Tom Seates, and when he went to Dawson he gave it to Captain Seigase, who entered it as freight in transit to Dawson for the Columbia Navigation company."

"Never mind all that," broke in the court. "Have you a receipt from Seates?" "No; I don't need one until I land the bearskin in Dawson."

The court now singled out French as the next point of attack. "Here, French," said he, "what do you know about this robe?"

French walked out from among the spectators, approached the bearskin and eyed it long and critically, with a face like a sphinx.

"Well," said the deputy marshal judge sharply, "did you ever see it before?" "I don't know," replied French solemnly, and the crowd giggled.

"What do you know?" demanded the court, with a red face, vexed at the moment and its cause.

"Nothing," replied French, with the same impassive countenance, and the crowd laughed again.

"Don't you own it?" "No, sir."

"I thought it is yours anyway," remarked the deputy.

"That is your privilege, sir," responded French, still unmoved.

The new judge tried a different course. "Come now," said he amiably, "tell us what you know about this bearskin?"

"Well," said the court, "you must decide. You can go into my office and deliberate."

Captain Story now spoke once more: "I suppose you are through with me. I have got work to do. I ask to be excused."

"You can just stay where you are for a few minutes," replied his honor, at which the captain, with some heat, repeated his former question, "What am I in this case anyhow?"

"You are the defendant," replied the court in all good faith, and the captain, with equal seriousness and accuracy of knowledge, went on:

"Well, then, as the defendant I move that this case be dismissed and the bearskin returned to where it was taken from."

"We return nothing!" shouted the judge.

"You are right," growled the captain. "I never knew you to return anything."

While the jury was out everybody indulged in a smoke, but before pipes were empty they reappeared, and in response to the judge's question, "What is your verdict, gentlemen?" the foreman read from a slip of paper the following unprecedented decision:

Circle City, May 4, 1899. We, the undersigned jurors in the trial of a polar bear skin, find that it belongs to nobody in particular, so we will keep it for ten days and give the owner a chance to prove his property. If it is still unsettled at the end of that time, we will play shuff and see who gets it for keeps.

J. W. GREEN, Foreman.
P. H. LEVANSKY,
M. H. LEVANSKY,
J. W. LEVANSKY,
J. W. LEVANSKY.

A Well Paved Town.
Danville, Ill., has more miles of paved streets than any city of its size in the world. For several years the efforts of the different city administrations have been directed toward paving the beautiful thoroughfares of the city with brick. There is not a rod of any other kind of pavement in the city, and there are nearly 15 miles of smooth brick pavement. The streets are broad, shady, well curbed and bordered with smooth lawns.

POLITICAL QUIPS.
Where there is rotten politics the public morals are rotten.—Philadelphia Record.

When the office seeks the man, it doesn't look for him on the street corner.—Chicago Dispatch.

If the currency erators in the senate want to please the country, they should "boil it down."—Baltimore American.

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BROUGHT BACK OLD TIMES.

A Tidbit That Was Not on the Restaurant Bill of Fare.

The force of childhood recollections and the truth of the quotation, "A touch of nature makes the whole world akin," were shown graphically by a little incident in a restaurant the other day. A quiet looking, middle aged man of prosperous appearance was eating his dinner when another well dressed man took a seat opposite him. After giving his order in a bluff, genial manner the newcomer took a sip of water and faced around. Suddenly a queer expression came over his face as he watched attentively the actions of his vis-a-vis, and apparently without realizing what he was doing he blurted out in a loud tone, "Well, well, well!"

Every one at the table, including the quiet looking man, started, and the others, observing the direction of the speaker's gaze, turned their eyes also upon him of the quiet appearance to see what had caused the exclamation.

The man who had come in first was in the act of spreading sugar over a slice of buttered bread, and when he realized that all eyes were turned upon him he blushed like one detected in a heinous crime and almost fell off his chair. It took him a minute or two to recover, and then he said to the table in general:

"I used to get bread and butter and sugar for being good when I was a child, and eating it is a habit which I like to indulge in even yet. I know it isn't upon the restaurant bill of fare, but I couldn't resist the temptation."

"I must beg your pardon for my rude exclamation," replied the other man. "My mother used to put bread and butter and sugar in my lunchbox when I went to school as an 8-year-old up in the country town where I was raised, and I haven't eaten any since my childhood, and I guess I'll join you in a place now for the sake of old times." And he did.—Bangor Whig.

Horses were introduced into Egypt by the shepherd kings less than 1700 B. C. No horse figures appear on the early monuments of Egypt.

A woman's logic comes out even in her sharpening a pencil. She makes her point in such queer ways.—Philadelphia Times.

A Wise Girl.
Carrie—Tell me, Kate, how was it you did not marry Mr. Tyler?

Kate—He told me I was the only woman he ever loved. If a man will lie to you before marriage, what stories won't he tell afterward?—Boston Transcript.

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A Lost King.

In olden times, when European kings were as plentiful as Kentucky colonels are today, it was not an exceptional occurrence for a king to disappear and never been heard of again. In ancient times, however, the people have been more careful of their kings.

So when King Sebastian of Portugal disappeared in battle July 20, 1578, while fighting the Moors at Alenzer, there was great commotion. The Moors surrendered to the Portuguese a body said to be that of the king, but it was rumored that the Moors had the king alive in custody.

The surrendered body was buried with royal honors at Belem, but the faithful Portuguese persisted in waiting for the return of their king. Long after he would have died in the course of nature his countrymen longingly awaited his coming.

Even up to this day the legend of the return of King Sebastian is believed by many, and on stormy nights credulous Portuguese citizens will wrap their cloaks about them and go outside and watch the storm, thinking that the king may appear in a cloud of fire again to rule.

France has as many as 45,000 families, with 130,000 individuals, claiming a title of nobility; but, as a matter of fact, only about 450 families can prove their claim to descent from a noble family in feudal times.

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Testimonial From Judge Gaston.

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ZELL GASTON, Judge of Probate Court, Butler County, Alabama.

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